



# **SOPHIA COLLEGE**

(AUTONOMOUS)

Affiliated to the University of Mumbai

## **Syllabi for Semester V**

**Programme:**

Bachelor of Arts (Strategic Communication and  
Journalism)

**[Formerly known as Bachelor of Mass Media (B.M.M.)]**

**Specialisation: Journalism**

**With effect from June 2022**

(Choice Based Credit System with effect from the year 2018-19)

## LIST OF COURSE TITLES AND COURSE CODES

CLASS	SEM	PAPER NO	PAPER NAME	COURSE CREDITS	SUBJECT CODE
TY	V	1	Reporting – I	04	SBMMEDJ501
TY	V	2	Editing	04	SBMMEDJ502
TY	V	3	Broadcasting & Digital – I	04	SBMMEDJ503
TY	V	4	Media Law	04	SBMMEDJ504
TY	V	5	Survey of Indian Journalism	04	SBMMEDJ505
TY	V	6	Research in Journalism	04	SBMMEDJ506

**SEMESTER V | JOURNALISM**  
**REPORTING – I**  
SUBJECT CODE: SBMMEDJ501

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**Learning Objectives:**

A course where students will learn the basics of reporting and then go out and report from the field; the idea is to simulate a real-world news room.

1. To practise the basics of reporting – news gathering and news writing
2. To learn effective use of various reporting tools
3. To engage in reporting from various beats
4. To write stories for different media platforms

**Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of the semester, the students will:

1. analyse the key components of reporting
2. use reporting tools to map out news stories
3. identify the ways to find and develop contacts, cultivate sources, cover events
4. examine the different reporting beats in detail
5. synthesise the different skills to develop and write news stories

**REPORTING – I**

**Lectures per Week: 04**

**I. Reporting Basics**

- The story idea – difference between an idea and a story idea
- Process of news gathering – observation, talking to sources, using documentary sources
- Organising and writing the story
- Structuring the story
- Essentials for reporting: attribution, accuracy, verification, completeness, fairness, balance, objectivity, brevity, clarity, selectivity

**II. Reporting Tools**

- Observation
- Conversation and interviewing
- Using quotations and attributions

- Gathering and verifying: using basic references and digital resources, using the computer to gather and analyse information
- Writing stories using wire copies/news releases
- Evaluating the credibility of online and other information

### **III. Finding and Developing Sources**

- Developing contacts
- Speaking to domain experts, government officials, police, municipal corporation officials, local politicians, NGO workers, Public Relations officials, corporate representatives
- Attending meetings, news conferences, rallies, panel discussions
- Conducting interviews and recording information: writing, audio, video, photographs

### **IV. Covering a Beat**

- Principles for reporters on a beat: preparation, background information, sources
- Beat reporting across media platforms
- Reporting different types of stories: breaking news, first story, follow-up story, obituary, investigative story, series, entertainment, sports

### **V. Reporting Civic Issues**

- Knowing the beat
- Reporting on local transportation, amenities, roads, hospitals, sanitation
- Speaking to local government officials

## **REFERENCES:**

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Mair, John, and Richard Lance Keeble. *Investigative Journalism; Dead or Alive?* Arima Publishing, 2011.

Mencher, Melvin. *Melvin Mencher's News Reporting and Writing*. New York: McGraw-Hill Higher Education, 2011.

Remnick, David. *Reporting: Writings from the New Yorker*. Picador, 2008.

Pilger, John. Editor. *Tell Me No Lies: Investigative Journalism and Its Triumphs*. RHUK; UK ed. Edition, 2005.

Rich, Carole. *Writing and Reporting News: A Coaching Method*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Pub, 2000.

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Youngblood, Steven. *Peace Journalism Principles and Practices: Responsibly Reporting Conflicts, Reconciliation, and Solutions*. Routledge.

**SEMESTER V | JOURNALISM**  
**EDITING**  
SUBJECT CODE: SBMMEDJ502

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**Learning Objectives:**

1. To understand the basics of editing
2. To learn to write effective headlines, captions and other elements of a news story
3. To edit reports and stories of various beats
4. To simulate a real-world newsroom to understand the job of a copy editor, and edit a story per two class meetings

**Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of the semester, the students will:

1. analyse the key components of editing
2. use style sheets when writing / editing a news story
3. develop news judgement through newsroom simulations
4. edit copies written by peers and classmates for practice
5. rewrite existing stories for greater clarity
6. compose headlines, sub-headlines, picture captions and kickers
7. edit news stories across different beats

**Lectures per Week: 04**

**I. Editing Basics**

- Understanding what editing stories entails – accuracy, grammar, style
- Fact-checking and the importance of general knowledge: reading news from various sources, reading *Malayala Manorama*, taking general knowledge quizzes to test awareness
- Plagiarism
- Grammar and punctuation
- Numeracy
- Using style guides – AP and Economist Style Guides
- Distinguishing between editing copy and rewriting copy

**II. News Judgement and Hierarchy**

- Simulating a news room
- Copy tasting – to spike or not to spike is the question

- Determining story hierarchy – impact, importance, the balance between what the reader wants and what she needs
- Editing copies written by colleagues every week
- Editing copies with missing information, bad language
- Selecting stories for a news portal

### **III. Once the Story is Edited**

- Rewriting for specific word count
- Using wire copies
- Writing headlines
- Writing sub-headlines
- Writing captions
- Writing kickers
- Using blurbs
- Verifying information: coordinating with the reporter, attributing sources, checking official sources of information, available data from public records
- Value-addition for a story: importance of infographics, illustrations and pictures

### **IV. Editing Different Types of Stories**

- News briefs
- Editing stories of various beats: civic, crime, politics, court, education, health, sports, business, entertainment
- Editing stories for print and the web: editing stories based on audience

### **V. Copy Editing or Subbing – The last line of defence**

- Protect readers
- Protect publication
- Protect reporter
- Defamation
- Ethics

## **REFERENCES:**

Fowler, H. W., & Butterfield, J. (2015). *Fowler's dictionary of modern english usage*. Oxford University Press.

Froke, P., Bratton, A. J., McMillan, J., Sarkar, P., Schwartz, J., & Vadarevu, R. (2020). *The Associated Press Stylebook 2020-2022*. The Associated Press.

Gilmore, Gene. *Modern Newspaper Editing*. Iowa: Iowa State Press, 1990.

Grosvenor Bleyer, Willard. *Newspaper Writing and Editing*. Forgotten Books, 2017.

HarperCollins Publishers. (2018). *Collins Cobuild Advanced Learner's Dictionary*.

Ludwig, Mark, and Gene Gilmore. *Modern News Editing*. 5th Edition. Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.

Milnor Hyde, Grant. *Newspaper Editing: A Manual for Editors, Copyreaders, Readers, and*

Sanyal, Jyoti. *Indlish: The Book for Every English Speaking Indian*. Viva Books, 2006.

*Students of Newspaper Desk Work*. Forgotten Books, 2018.

Strunk, William I. *The Elements of Style*. 4th ed., Pearson, 1999.

Truss, Lynne. *Eats, Shoots and Leaves*. Fourth Estate, 2010.

Wroe, A. (2018). *Economist style guide: 12th edition*. Economist Books.



**SEMESTER V | JOURNALISM**  
**BROADCASTING AND DIGITAL – I**  
SUBJECT CODE: SBMMEDJ503

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**Learning Objectives:**

1. To introduce the students to the specific forms of broadcast news, and online storytelling
2. To enable them to write for both radio and television
3. To enable them to write and produce simple stories for both radio and television

**Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of the semester, the students will:

1. analyse the key components of broadcast journalism
2. write for the ear by understanding the principles of audio-visual storytelling
3. write, edit and narrate for broadcast scripts
4. shoot videos and record sound
5. create and edit broadcast news packages

**No. of lectures per week: 04**

**I. Introduction to Broadcasting:**

- Exemplars of radio and television broadcasting
- Orson Welles's *War of the World*
- Ed Murrow reporting the siege of London
- Story formats – readers, vosot, packages, two-ways

**II. Writing for the ear:**

- Understanding sound and audio
- Simple, concise and conversational writing
- Stories: telling the story, reading the story
- Use of numbers
- Use of contractions
- Subject-Verb-Object
- Sentences: using direct speech, re-writing, writing short, lean sentences; brevity in writing
- Leads
- Attribution, Quotes, Time, Transitions, Locations, People
- Story length

### **III. Introduction to Audio Recording & Editing:**

- Use of natural sound
- Basic editing
- Narrating stories
- Interviewing: before, during and after; phone interviews
- Producing: newscast, public affairs

### **IV. Writing to pictures and shooting:**

- Writing to visuals
- Television newscasts
- Rewriting wire copies
- Attribution in television
- Avoiding TMI (too much information)
- Writing compelling leads

### **V. Introduction to Videography and editing**

- Audio and video
- Basics of lighting
- Shooting B-Roll
- Use of natural sound
- Getting sound bites
- Stand-up or Piece to Camera
- Interviewing: before, during and after; man-on-the-street interviews; phone interviews, three-point lighting
- Phrasing questions carefully
- Equipment and setting up the field

## **REFERENCES:**

- Bradshaw, P. (2018). *The Online Journalism Handbook: Skills to survive and thrive in the Digital age*. Routledge.
- Foust, J. C. (2017). *Online journalism: Principles and practices of news for the web*. Routledge.
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- Lanson, J., & Stephens, M. (2008). *Writing and reporting the news*. Oxford University Press.
- Wulfemeyer, K. T. (2009). *Beginning Radio and Tv newswriting: A self-instructional learning experience*. John Wiley & Sons.
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Dotson, Bob. *Make It Memorable: Writing and Packaging Visual News with Style*. London: Rowman & Littlefield, 2016.

Hewitt, John. *Air Words: Writing Broadcast News in the Internet Age*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018.

Stephens, Mitchell. *Broadcast News*. New York: Cengage, 2004.

Tompkins, Al. *Aim for the Heart: Write, Shoot, Report and Produce for TV and Multimedia*. Thousand Oaks: CQ Press, 2017.

**SEMESTER V | JOURNALISM**  
**MEDIA LAW**  
SUBJECT CODE: SBMMEDJ504

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**Learning Objectives:**

1. Introduce students to the constitutional foundations of freedom of speech, expression and inter alia the freedom of the press, including the concept of balancing rights and limitations
2. Introduce students to the concepts and laws that journalists should be aware in plying their craft
  - a. Content-specific issues: sedition, defamation, hate speech, obscenity, secrecy of information
  - b. Procedure-specific issues: prior restraint, privacy, contempt of court, covering court proceedings, covering legislature, right to information or sunshine laws, source privilege or shield laws
  - c. Business: Circulation, pricing, broadcasting, internet and copyright

**Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of the semester, the students will:

1. examine the key components of media law
2. analyse the relevant Supreme Court cases in the context of speech and expression
3. analyse the relevant IPC cases in the context of public order
4. identify the relevant cases in the context of sedition, defamation, hate speech, obscenity, censorship, privacy and contempt of court
5. discuss aspects of covering court proceedings and covering legislature
6. discuss the right to information and secrecy of information
7. examine and illustrate the themes that pervade non-fiction prose writing
8. investigate business issues and press freedom

**Lectures per Week: 04**

**I. Introduction to Media Law**

- Hierarchy of laws – constitution, statute and case law
- A.K. Gopalan v. State of Madras, AIR 1950 SC 27. – Constitutional Balance
- Constitutional foundations: Article 19 (1) and 19(2)
- First Amendment (relevant cases)
- Sixteenth Amendment

**II. Speech & Expression**

- Relevant Supreme Court cases for definition of speech, freedom of speech and expression

### **III. Public Order**

- Section 295A of the Indian Penal Code
- Section 153A, 153B of the Indian Penal Code
- Section 508 of the Indian Penal Code
- Section 66A of the Information Technology Act
- Unlawful Activities Prevention Act criminalises participation even in *meetings* of associations
- Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act criminalises ‘intentionally insulting’ or ‘intimidating, with intent to humiliate’ any Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe person
- Relevant Supreme Court cases to be included here

### **IV. Sedition**

- Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code
- Relevant court cases on sedition to be listed here

### **V. Defamation: Criminal and Civil**

- Section 499, 500 IPC, 1860
- Relevant court cases on defamation to be listed here

### **VI. Hate Speech**

- Section 195A of IPC
- Section 295A (insulting religious feelings)
- Section 153A (causing disharmony or enmity between different castes and communities) of the Indian Penal Code
- Section 66A of the Information Technology Act (offensive or ‘menacing’ speech)
- Section 123 of the Representation of the People Act (restricting certain kinds of speech during elections)
- Section 3(1)(x) of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act
- Section 95 of Cr.P.C.
- Relevant court cases on hate speech to be listed here

### **VII. Obscenity**

- Section 292, IPC
- Cinematograph Act of 1952 (films)
- The Dramatic Performances Act of 1876 (theatre)
- The Customs Act of 1962

- Post Office Act of 1898 (transportation of material)
- Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act of 1896
- Young Persons (Harmful Publications) Act of 1956
- Information Technology Act of 2000 (online communication), and others
- The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986
- The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Rules, 1987
- Relevant court cases on obscenity to be listed here

### **VIII. Censorship & Prior Restraint**

- Relevant court cases on censorship to be listed here

### **IX. Privacy**

- Relevant court cases on privacy to be listed here
- Ref: Consultation Paper-cum-Questionnaire on Undercover Sting Operations, Law Commission of India

### **X. Contempt of Court**

- The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971
- Rules to Regulate Proceedings for Contempt of the Supreme Court, 1975
- Relevant court cases on contempt of court to be listed here
- Ref: Articles 129, 142 (2), 215; entry 77, List I, Seventh Schedule, Constitution of India
- The Contempt of Court Act, 1971 (as amended)
- Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice, the Contempt of Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2004 (Twelfth Report)
- Paras 3.8.1 and 7.4, Report of the National Commission for the Review of the Working of the Constitution

### **XI. Covering Court Proceedings**

- Relevant court cases to be listed here
- *Trial by Media: Free Speech and Fair Trial under Criminal Procedure Code, 1973*, 200th Report, Law Commission of India

### **XII. Covering legislature**

- Article 361 A, Constitution of India
- The Parliamentary Proceedings (Protection of Publication) Act, 1977
- Relevant court cases on reporting legislature to be listed here

### **XIII. Right to Information & Secrecy of Information**

- Official Secrets Act, 1923
- National Security Act, 1980

- The Right to Information Act, 2005
- The Central Information Commission (Management) Regulations, 2007
- Relevant court cases on RTI to be listed here

#### **XIV. Source Privilege**

- Relevant court cases on source privilege to be listed here
- Law Commission of India. 1983. *Report No. 93: Disclosure of Sources of Information by Mass Media*

#### **XV. Business Issues and Press Freedom**

- The Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955
- The Copyright Act, 1957
- The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990
- The Sports Broadcasting Signals (Mandatory Sharing with Prasar Bharati) Act, 1993
- Relevant court cases on freedom of speech and commerce to be listed here

**NOTE:** All the case laws will be added to this document after verifying their details.

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**SEMESTER V | JOURNALISM**  
**SURVEY OF INDIAN JOURNALISM**  
SUBJECT CODE: SBMMEDJ505

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**Learning Objectives:**

1. To introduce students to the present state of journalism as a profession and industry
2. To introduce students to news media in various languages
3. To understand the relationship between the press and various stakeholders in India
4. To understand the traditional and non-traditional news media
5. To discuss the various problems/issues in journalism today

**Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of the semester, the students will:

1. map out the history of journalism in India
2. examine key moments in the development of the press in independent India
3. analyse the role of advertising and the changing economy on Indian news as a business
4. compare and contrast the types of news media in the country
5. evaluate the role and impact of broadcast journalism in India
6. assess the challenges of online journalism in India
7. outline the scope and challenges in Indian journalism today

**Lectures per Week: 04**

**I. Origin of the Press in India**

- Pre-colonial traditions of information gathering – *bhat, charan, akhbarat*
- Arrival of the press
- Press during the British era
- Role of the press: social, religious and political reform and criticism
- Press and the national movement

**II. Press in Independent India**

- The Press Commissions – press in the hands of businessmen
- Government & press relations – case of Bennett & Coleman
- Press during the Emergency

**III. Revolution in the Indian Press**

- Role of advertising, technology in transforming journalism
- Localisation and globalisation: loss of the intermediate
- News media as a business: concentration and ownership

#### **IV. Types of Information and News Media**

- News magazines
- Niche publications -- arts, sports, education, career, entertainment, fashion, automotive, financial and business

#### **V. Broadcast Journalism**

- The story of All India Radio, Doordarshan
- Prasar Bharati and the promise of autonomy
- Rise of private broadcasting news operations
- Breaking news and prime time news
- Economics of news gathering – debates and panel discussions
- English and regional language news channels

#### **VI. Online Journalism**

- News by stand-alone publications/organisations
- Challenges of running news websites

#### **VII. Journalism Today: Scope and Issues**

- The role of journalism and journalists today
- Press and politics
- Commercialisation of news, reader as consumer
- Press freedom in India
- Citizen journalism
- Social media and fake news

### **REFERENCES:**

Athique, Adrian, et al. Ed. *The Indian Media Economy*. (2 Volumes). India: Oxford University Press, 2017

Jeffrey, Robin. *India's Newspaper Revolution: Capitalism, Politics and the Indian Language Press*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Kohli-Khandekar, V. (2021). *Indian Media Business: Pandemic and after*. Sage Publications.

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Ravindranath, P. K. (2012). *Indian Regional Journalism*. Authors Press.

**SEMESTER V | JOURNALISM**  
**RESEARCH IN JOURNALISM**  
SUBJECT CODE: SBMMEDJ506

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**Learning Objectives:**

1. Introduce students to critical thinking and to research tools necessary for journalism
2. Introduce students to logical reasoning, methods of sourcing information, analysing research, data analysis, numeracy, basic statistical concepts, fact-checking, and the use of Right to Information Act

**Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of the semester, the students will:

1. identify the key components of critical thinking
2. examine the role of research in journalism
3. identify the problem and locate data sources
4. tabulate data in tabular form using Excel
5. conduct a research project and write a research report

**Lectures per Week: 04**

**I. Critical Thinking**

- Structured thinking
- Argument, Premise, Conclusion, Inference, Validity, Logical Form, Soundness
- Syllogisms, Fallacies,
- Language skills – translation
- Background Knowledge – Information Literacy: locating information, evaluating information, organising information, synthesising information, communicating information

**II. Researching Stories**

- What is research in journalism?
- Understanding your role
- Asking questions and finding answers
- Observation, interviews, and research
- Numeracy skills

**III. Finding Data**

- From questions to a problem
- Understanding research problems in journalism
- From problems to sources
- Sources and their uses
- Types of sources:
  - i. People
  - ii. Written sources
  - iii. Online sources
  - iv. Government reports
  - v. Ministry reports
  - vi. Public records
  - vii. Company records
- Locating Sources on the Internet
- Evaluating Sources for Relevance and Reliability

#### **IV. Numeracy & Statistics**

- Specifics of counting and quantification
- Data in tabular form: the fundamentals
- Sorting, summing and percentage change
- Statistics: basics of inference, correlation, probability
- Polling and surveys
- Using Excel

#### **V. Reading and Interpreting Data**

- Challenges with data: finding and cleaning
- Interpreting academic research
- Scientific literature and data
- Health, well-being and medical data
- Crime and public safety data
- Economic and business data

#### **VI. Writing & Visualising Data**

- Visualisation basics
- Data visualisation in journalism practice
- Advanced visualisation techniques

## **REFERENCES**

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**DATA SOURCES FOR FACULTY TO USE IN CLASS:**

- Economic data
- Caste data
- ISER report
- NSSO
- National health survey
- Crime statistics
- NITI Aayog
- World Bank
- IMF report
- Census
- Election Commission
- Budget
- CIE
- Reading a balance sheet – books of account of an entity
- Research from medical journals
- Household survey
- Market data
- Academic research
- Ministry reports
- RBI data
- Looking up case judgement (case laws)
- Older newspaper reports using data